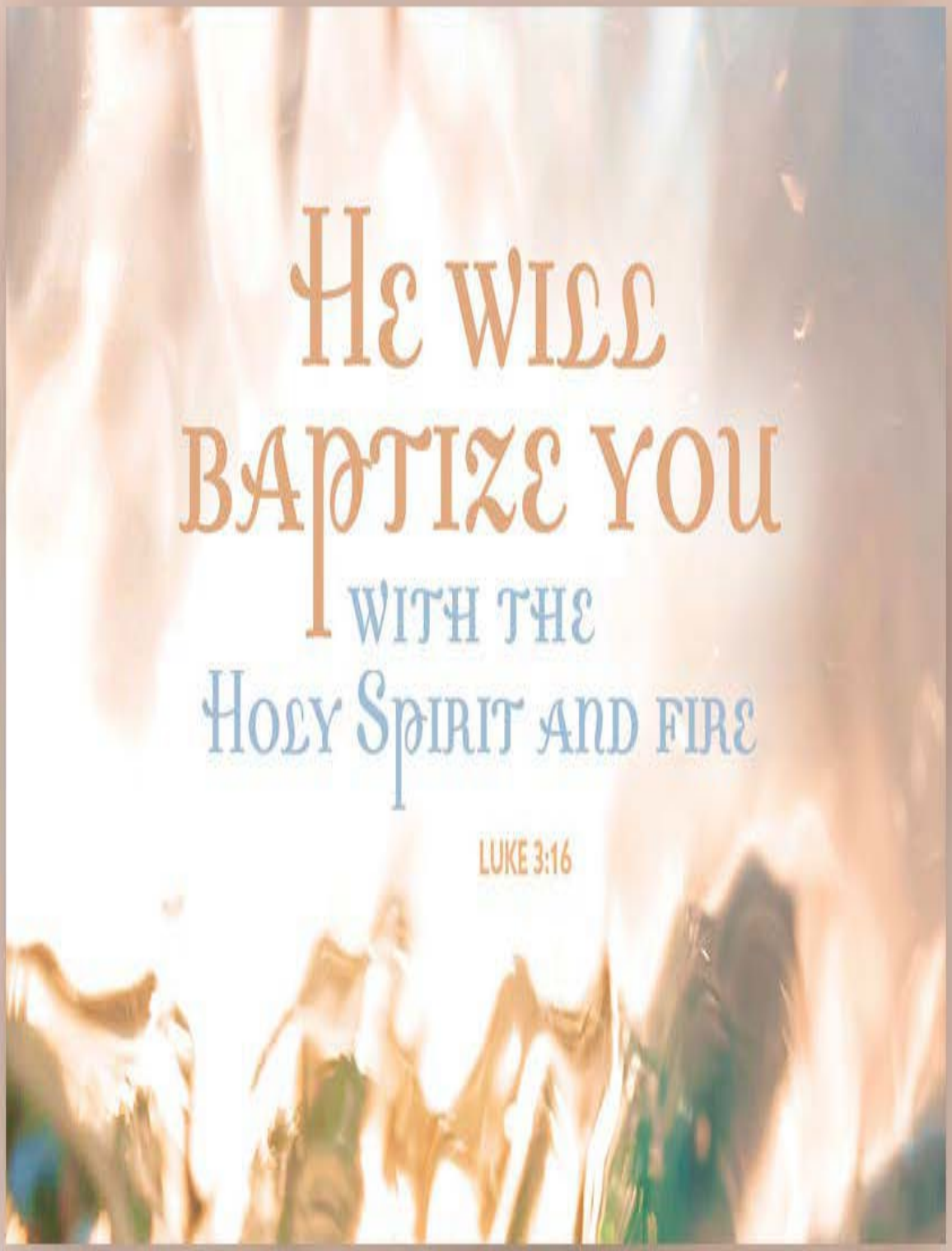


Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Ypsilanti, MI
December 15, 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Worship Key
P: Pastor
A: Assisting Ministers
C: Congregation

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, alive in the world,
reviving creation, arriving soon.
C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

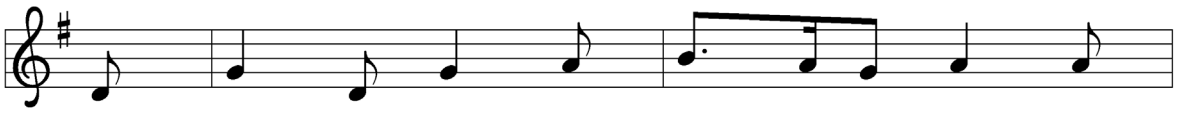
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of mercy,
C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.
P: God of might,
C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.
P: God in our midst,
C: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

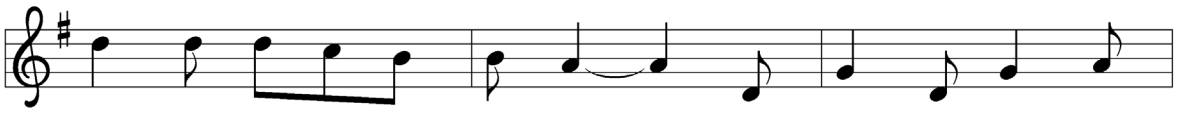
P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ✠ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 242

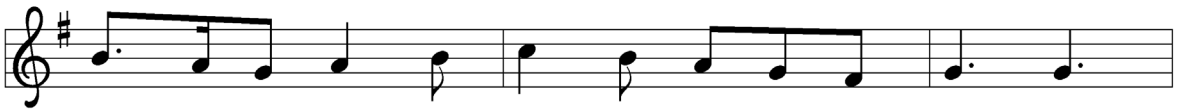
"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"



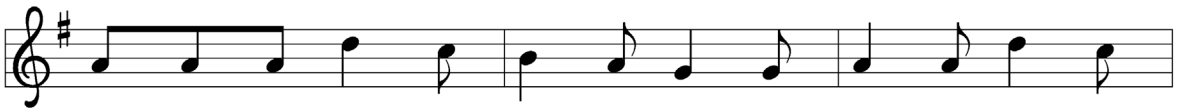
1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



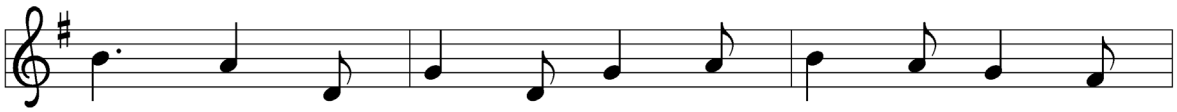
an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



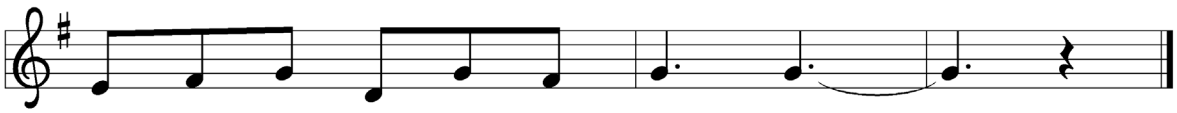
soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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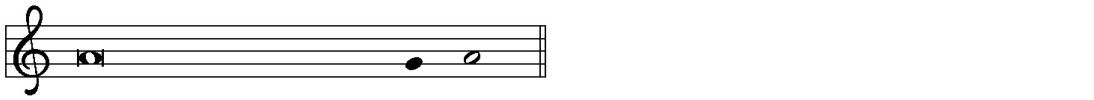
GREETING

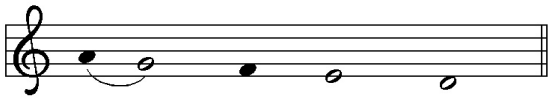
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

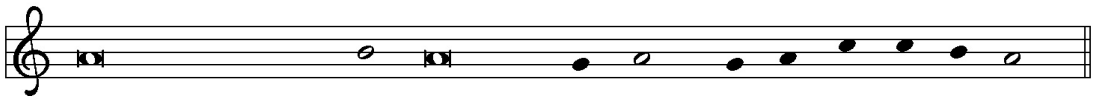
KYRIE



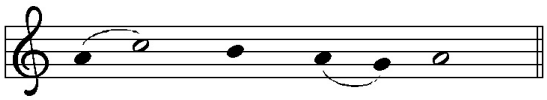
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



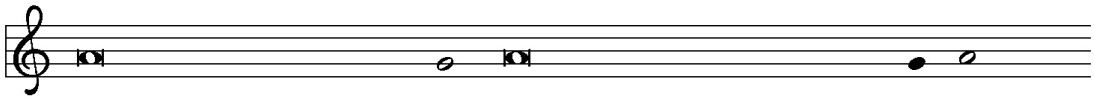
Lord, have mer - cy.



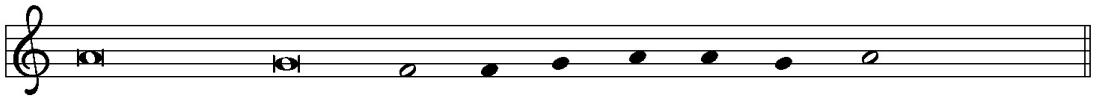
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



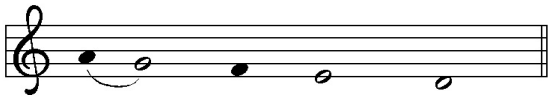
Lord, have mer - cy.



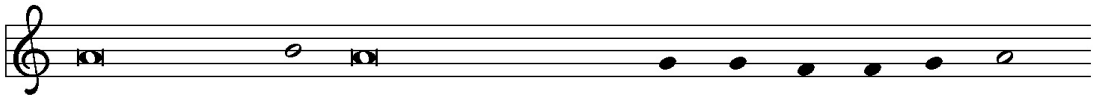
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



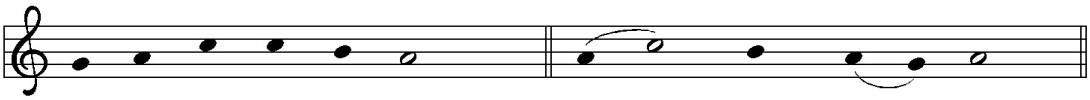
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



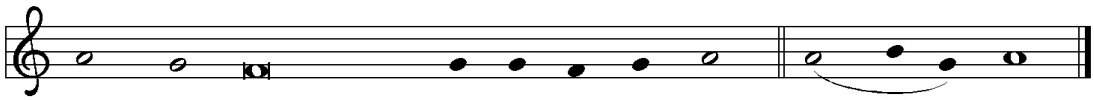
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



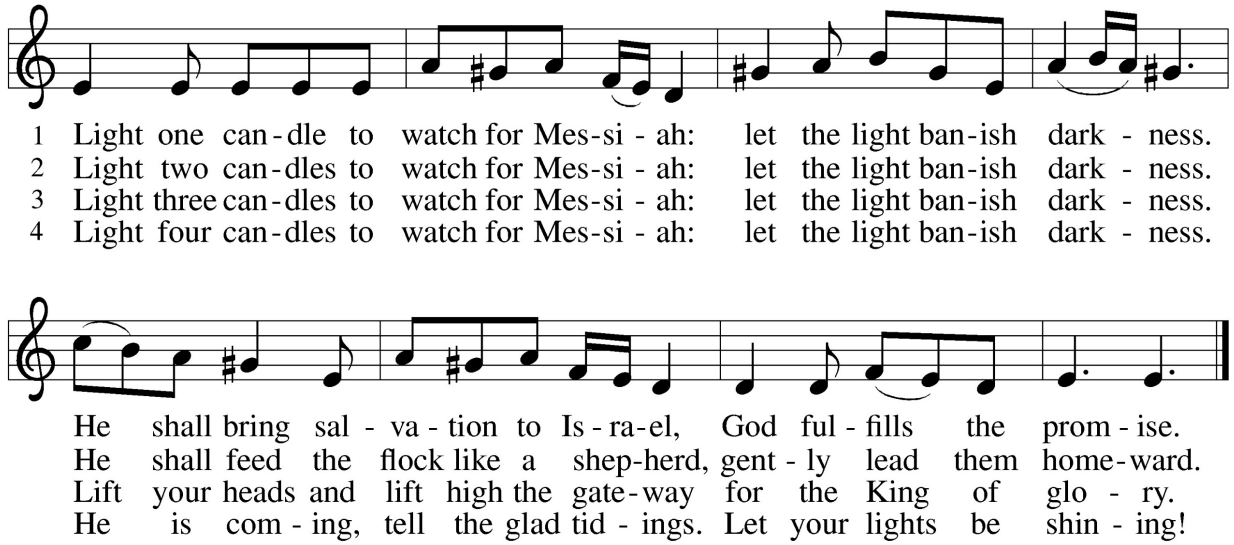
Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

P: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may see our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

ADVENT HYMN – *"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (v.1-3)*



Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

C: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

A: A reading from Zephaniah.

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
"Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.
17 The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing 18 as on a day of festival."
I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.
19 I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.
And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.
20 At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

A: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)

P: [2] Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might,
and has become my salvation.
C: [3] With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
P: [4] And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;
proclaim that this name is exalted.
C: [5] Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
P: [6] Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

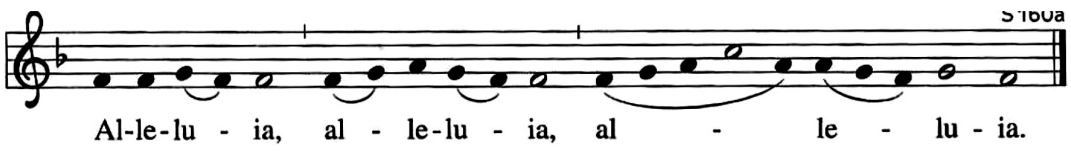
A: A reading from Philippians.

[4] Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. [5] Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. [6] Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

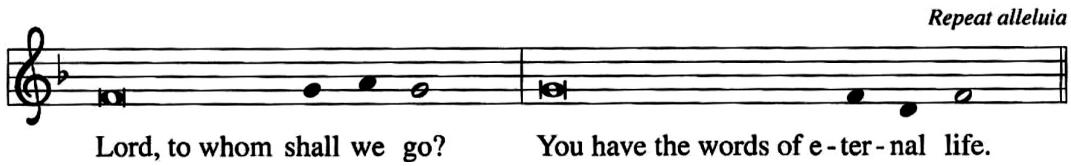
A: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing this verse.



GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

P: The Gospel according to Luke.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of
vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruits
worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham
as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children
to Abraham. 9 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every
tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."
10 And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" 11 In reply he said
to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and
whoever has food must do likewise." 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized,
and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" 13 He said to them, "Collect
no more than the amount prescribed for you." 14 Soldiers also asked him, "And
we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by
threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."
15 As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their
hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all
of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than
I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his

threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

18 So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME — Rev. Joshua Rinas

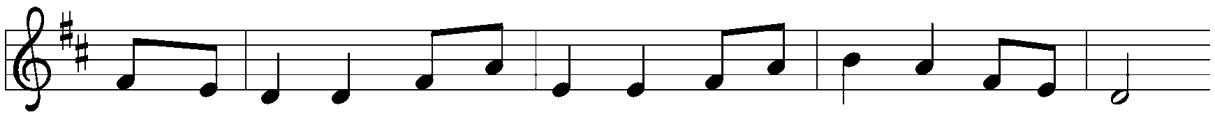
A special message for children.

SERMON — Rev. Joshua Rinas

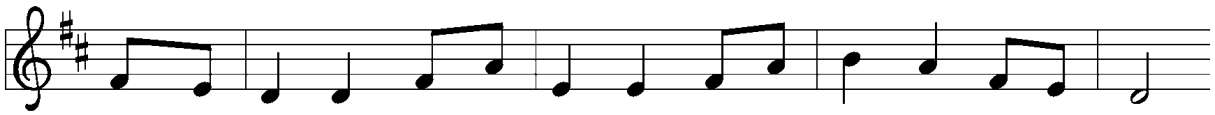
Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY — ELW 843

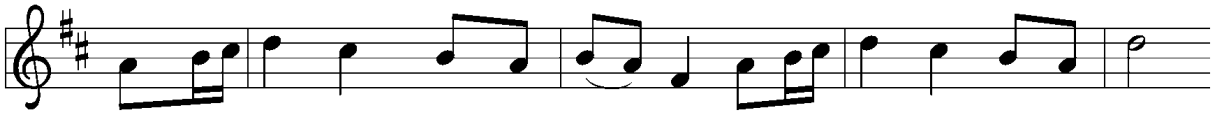
"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"



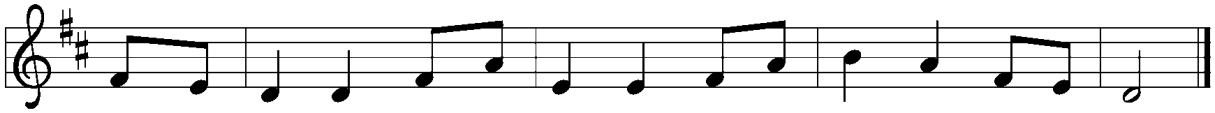
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at-ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car-nate: Christ, who suf-fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis-ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des-ert's burn-ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.



calm-ing storms and feed-ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem-ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813
Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

APOSTLES' CREED

A: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

A: God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

A: God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

A: God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

A: God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. We pray especially for John, Cora, and Mary. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

A: God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here, including our quilters and counters, altar guild and clothes closet, property and finance. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For what else does this congregation pray? Prayers may be said aloud, typed into the live chat box, or silently in your hearts…

Brief Pause for the congregation to respond.

A: God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

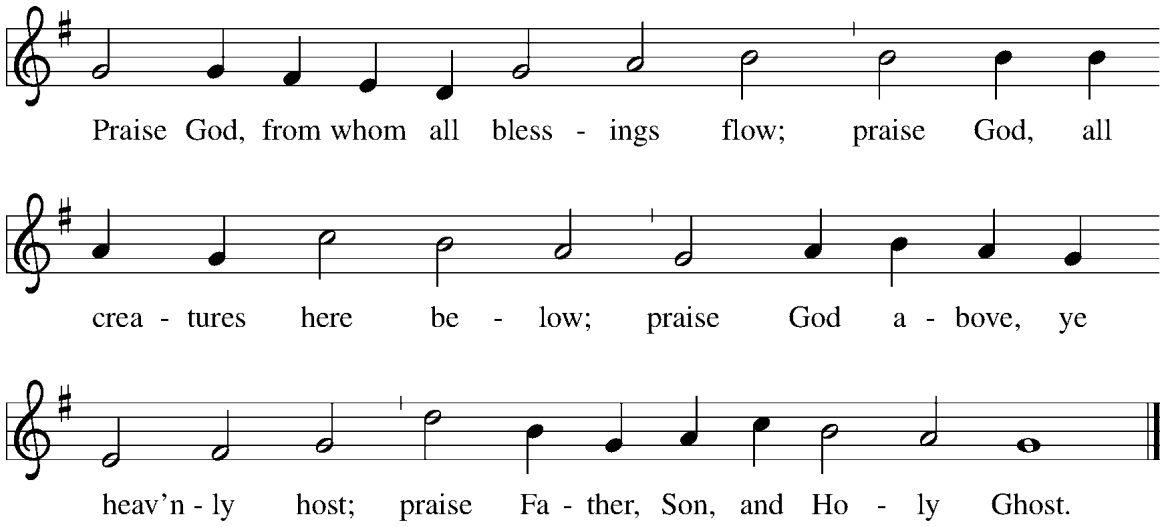
C: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN – *"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"*



OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

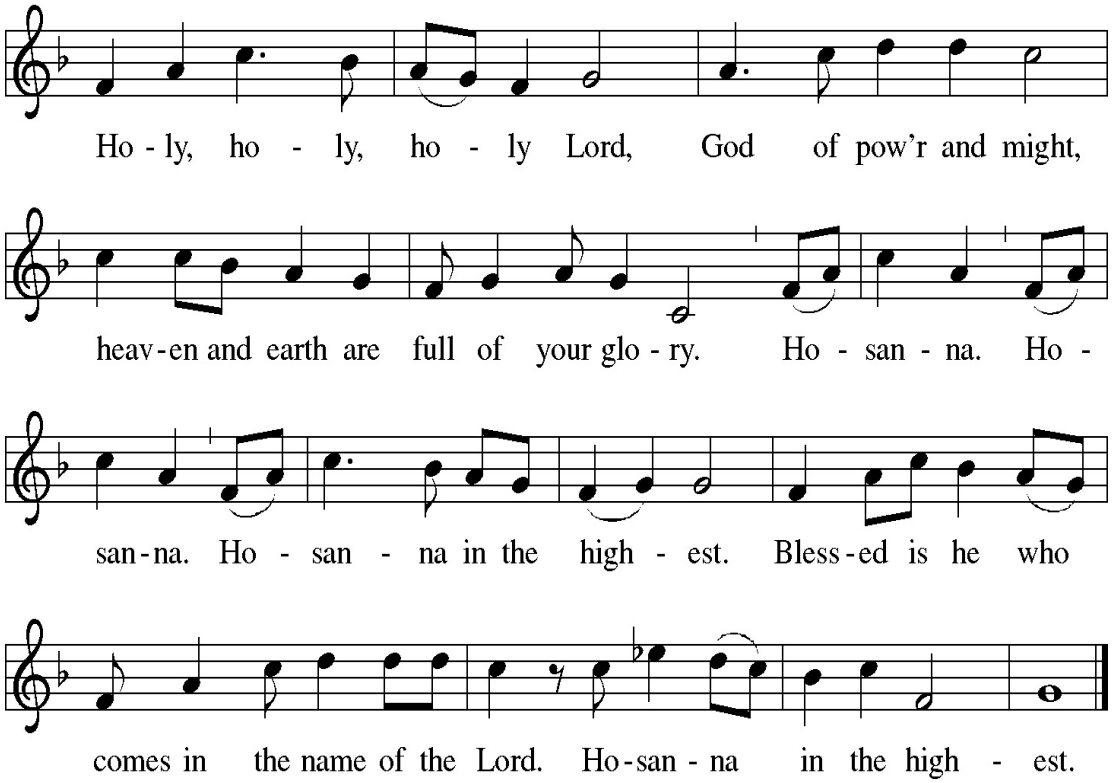
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
C: Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
C: Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

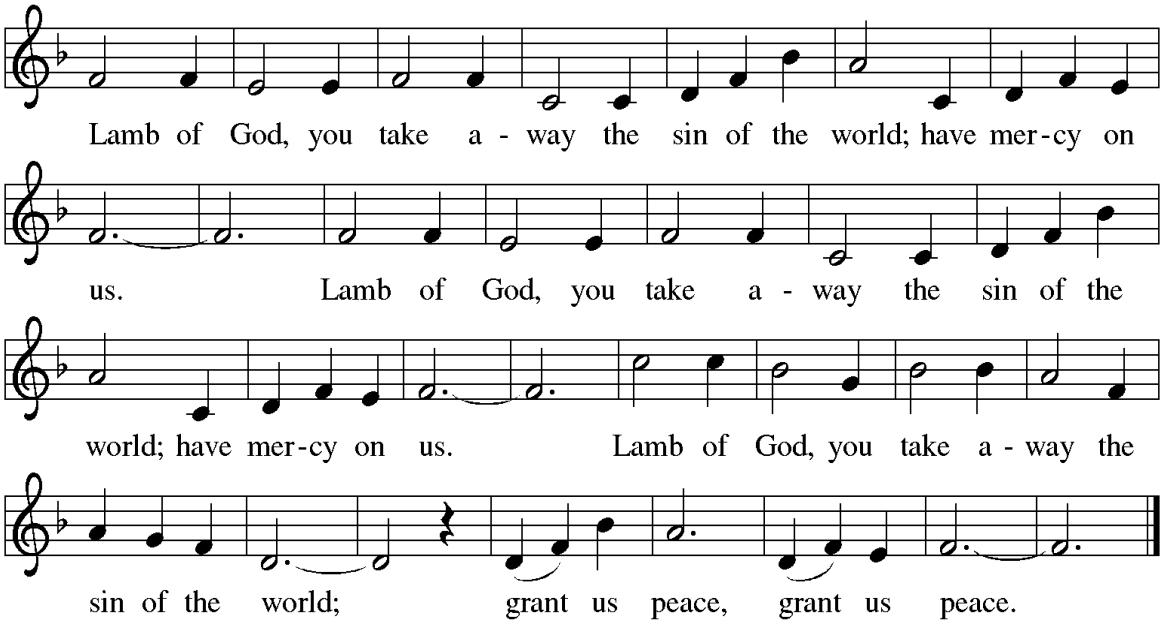
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

LAMB OF GOD CANTICLE

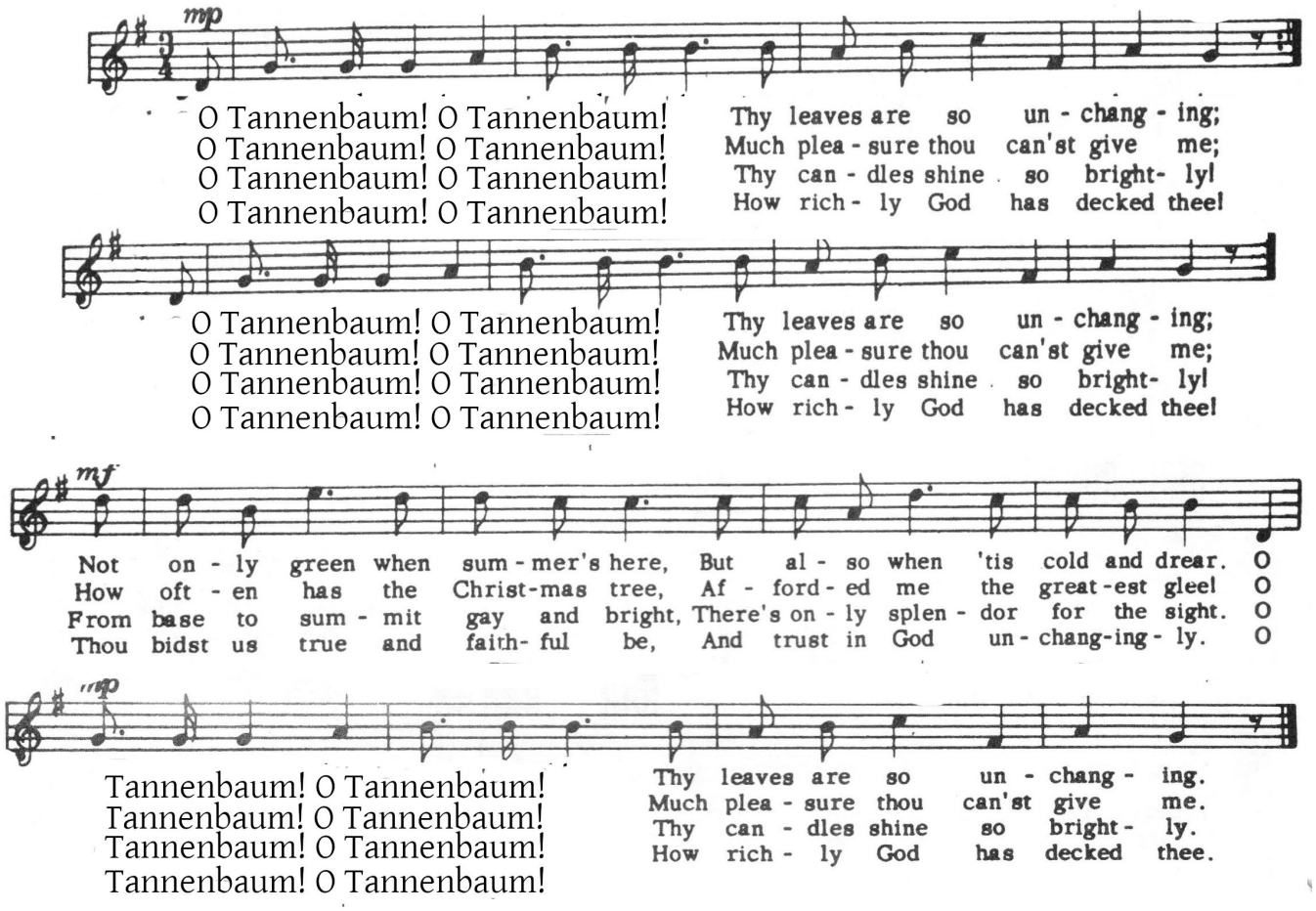


Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN – *"O Tannenbaum"*

Led by the Emmanuel Chancel Choir (Please join in singing)



P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

C: Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

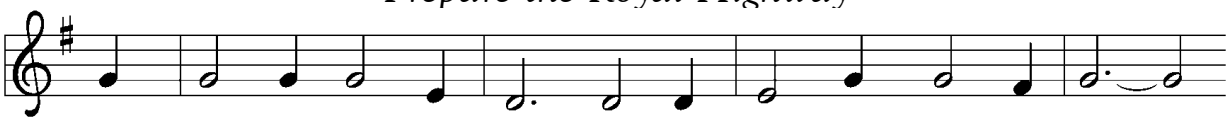
BLESSING

P: God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

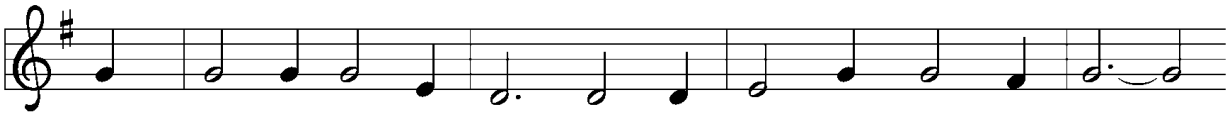
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 264

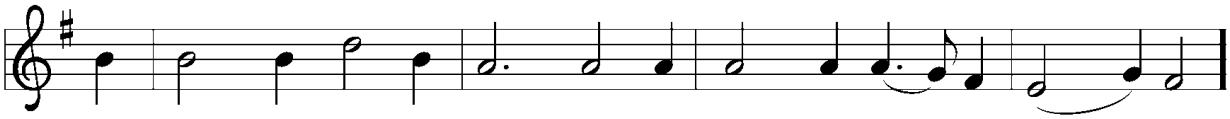
"Prepare the Royal Highway"



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

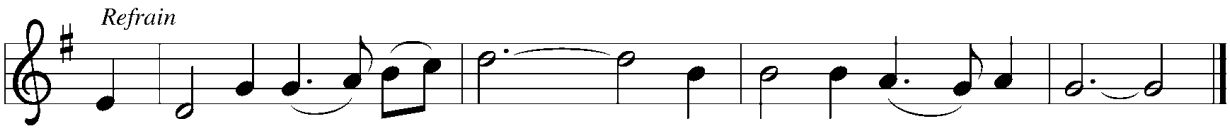


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! If this is your first time with us, please add your name and information to our Guest book located in the Narthex (Lobby), we would love to connect with you.

*Hearing assistance devices and cushions are available in the back pew. Please help yourself!
*Children's bulletins available, please see an usher.
*Printed copies of the Newsletter are in the magazine holder in the Narthex.
**Christ in Our Home* devotionals (January - March) can be found in the Narthex.
*Hand Sanitizers can be found in the Narthex and hanging at the end of the pews.

Please remember to wear your Name Tag

It's a help for visitors and folks you may not have seen for a while. If you need a new Name tag, please let Jennifer know.

Christmas Eve Services

There will be a Christmas Eve service at 6:00pm and 10:00pm. Poinsettias can be picked up after the 10pm service.

Thank You

A huge Thank you to all that helped with the Christmas Giveaway, it couldn't happen without your help and support!

Reminder: the Clothes Closet is not open until after the New Year, and will not be taking donations.

2025 Stewardship Campaign

Stewardship Pledge cards are in the Narthex by the bulletins. We would like to have all pledge cards in by December 15th. You can click here to review the stewardship campaign materials, print a pledge card, or fill out your pledge online.

2025 Altar Flower Sign-up

The 2025 Altar flower sign-up has been put up on the bulletin board outside the office. Please sign-up for your date and turn in the form and monies in the offering plate or office mailbox. Thank you!

Let's Go Out to Eat!

The Membership Committee would like to invite you to a meal and conversation on Tuesday, December 17th at 5pm at Aubree's in Depot Town – located at 39 E. Cross St. Ypsilanti, MI. This is a social event for people to get to know each other better. If you have a friend who you'd like to bring who isn't a member at Emmanuel, they're more than welcome!

Cookies, Cocoa, and Carols

Please join us in the church overflow area on Thursday, December 19th from 7:00pm -8:00pm for cookies, cocoa, and carols! Please bring some cookies and cocoa to share as we sing carols and just have some fellowship this Christmas season!

Children's Christmas Pageant

The Emmanuel Youth Christmas pageant will take place on December 22nd during the Sunday morning church service. Practices for children interested in participating will take place during services on Sundays in December. Please mark your calendars for a delightful retelling of the Nativity story.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes will meet on the 8th and the 22nd of December from 11:30am - 1:00pm.

Ways to Give: Giving can be done online by clicking here. Or mail checks to: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 201 N. River St., Ypsilanti, MI 48198.

Text to Give: Text 734-548-9438. Simply text the amount you would like to give and follow the prompts.

Paypal: Select payment type "Friends and Family" using emmanuelypsi@gmail.com. Please indicate account (general fund, flowers, memorials, etc.) where it says add message.

Mobile App: Download the Vanco Payments Mobile app for free from Google Play. In the app, select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation.

Blessing Bags

The bags are located outside the office, the women's bags have a purple ribbon and the men's bags have a blue ribbon. Please, Be a Blessing and take a Bag.

Many thanks for the support that we have received in the past for the Blessing Bags for those less fortunate. We are looking to replenishing our supply of Blessing Bags for the winter. Below are some of the items needed to replenish the next group of bags for distribution:

Toothbrushes & toothpaste, Tissues, Toilet Paper, Sanitary Products for women, Gloves, hand warmers, Washcloths & soap, combs, small size deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Hand lotion, safety pins, socks, hats, scarves, hand sanitizer, Juice boxes, Granola bars, Crackers & Cheese, Pudding, Jello Cups, Tea bags, Individual Instant coffee packets, Instant Oatmeal, Individual packages of nuts or other snack items, disposable cups, and plastic ware. Also, monetary gifts are welcome to enable us to purchase bus tokens, and any other necessary items. Individually wrapped items are preferred, but we are grateful for whatever you share.

There is an area outside the office for donations. And if you'd like to join us when we replenish the bags we would welcome your assistance. Please contact anyone on Membership for more information. Gratefully, Terri, Monica, Judy, & Linda

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Worship Volunteers Needed!

Sign up on the sheet outside the office or call the office (734-482-7121). Or through sign-up genius. Assisting Ministers - Click here or Scan QR code

This Week at Emmanuel

Sunday, December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent

- Handbell Choir 8:45am
- Chancel Choir 9:30am
- **Worship 10:00am**
- Music Time for Youth (following the Children's Message)
- Coffee Hour 11:00am – Noon
- **COUNCIL MEETING**
- Bethel Service 12:00pm
- Scouts Holiday Potluck/Gift Exchange 4:00pm – 9:00pm

Tuesday, December 17

- Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 10:30am
- Food Delivery 1:00pm
- **Let's Go Out to Eat 5:00pm @Aubree's Depot Town**

Wednesday, December 18

- **Bible Study Class 12:30pm – 2:00pm**
- Food Pantry 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Thursday, December 19

- Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 9:30am
- **Cookies, Cocoa, and Carols 7:00pm – 8:00pm**

Friday, December 20

- NA Meeting 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Sunday, December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
Children's Pageant

- Handbell Choir 8:45am
- **Worship 10:00am**
- Coffee Hour 11:00am – Noon
- **Confirmation Class 11:30am – 1:00pm**
- Bethel Service 12:00pm

The flowers on the altar today are given to the Glory of God.

For those with young children: Emmanuel's "Pray-Ground," located at the front of the church, was established as a positive, welcoming experience for children in church. Many churches have begun using this feature, which gives small children a space to squirm, quietly play with soft toys, books, and do arts and crafts. Parents may want to sit nearby to accompany children, but don't worry about noise—worship leaders have microphones! We encourage everyone with little ones to give this a try.

Prayers requested for: John, Cora, and Mary.

Links:

Livestream Worship - https://www.youtube.com/@emmanuelypsi
Giving Online - Online donation
Clothes Closet - ClothesCloset@emmanuelypsi.org
Food Pantry - FoodPantry@emmanuelypsi.org

Serving in Worship:

Interim Pastor..... *Rev. Joshua Rinas*
Minister of Worship Music..... *David Meitzler*
Minister of Choral Conducting..... *Jamie Gallupe*
Assisting Minister..... *Peter Diehr*

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You are welcome to connect to our wi-fi network – Emmanuel Guests

Contact us at info@emmanuelypsi.org
Or call us at 734-482-7121

Visit us at www.EmmanuelYpsi.org
Or @emmanuelypsi on Facebook